

Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges Complex

Compatibility Determination

Use: Video Streaming of Wildlife Activities

Refuge(s) Name: Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges Complex
(Chautauqua NWR, Emiquon NWR, Meredosia NWR)

Establishing and Acquisition Authority(ies):

Chautauqua NWR - Executive Order 7524, December 23, 1936; Migratory Bird Conservation Act, February 18, 1929, as amended.

Emiquon NWR - Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, as amended.

Meredosia NWR - Migratory Bird Conservation Act, February 18, 1929, as amended; Refuge Recreation Act, September 28, 1962, as amended.

Refuge Purpose(s):

Chautauqua NWR - "...as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife." (Executive Order 7524); "...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

Emiquon NWR - "...the conservation of the wetlands of the nation in order to maintain the public benefits they provide and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions." (Emergency Wetlands Resources Act)

Meredosia NWR - "...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds." (Migratory Bird Conservation Act); "...suitable for 1) incidental fish and wildlife oriented recreational development, 2) the protection of natural resources, 3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species...the Secretary...may accept and use...real...property. Such acceptance may be accomplished under the terms and conditions of restrictive covenants imposed by donors..." (Refuge Recreation Act)

Refuge System Mission:

"The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans."

Description of Use:

Installation of cameras for day and/or night time filming, to capture video, images and/or audio of wildlife on the Refuge. In some cases the use of small antennas or platforms to relay wireless video and/or audio signal to off refuge receiving stations may be required.

Availability of Resources:

Costs to administer this use are minimal and include preparation of a special use permit and very limited, personal contact by Refuge Manager or biologist to guide permittee(s) to best and most suitable locations. Funding and staff levels are adequate to administer this use.

Anticipated Impacts of the Use:

No short-term, or long-term, impacts are expected and the Refuge Manager will control the potential for cumulative impacts through issuance of Special Use Permits. Managers retain the option to revoke Special Use Permits on the Refuge which do not contribute to the purposes of the Refuge or the mission of the Refuge System, violate policies or permit conditions, or cause undue resource disturbance or harm.

When the video/audio links are available to the public the Refuge receives the added benefit of connecting the non-visiting public to the Refuge which serves as an outreach tool. The video/audio transmission from Refuge specific sites also allows research and observations to occur with less intrusion.

Public Review and Comment:

Notice of this draft determination was posted at Refuge Headquarters in Havana, IL and for 14 days beginning on May 13, 2013 and ending on May 26, 2013. A notice of availability was also placed on the Refuge's website and released to local news media for publication. Public review was limited to 14 days since filming of this nature is generally welcome and little interest, concern, or controversy expected. No public comments or concerns were received or expressed during the review period.

Determination:

☐ Use is not compatible

☒ Use is compatible with following stipulations

Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility:

1. All applicable state and federal regulations apply.
2. A Special Use Permit must be issued. Conditions within the permit would minimize disturbance to Refuge resources.

3. Placement and timing of placement of camera(s) and associated equipment must be coordinated with Refuge biological staff.
4. The public will have access to the video streaming free of any charge.

Justification:

The duration and impacts of disturbance to wildlife is limited by the size of the Refuge. Many species have also grown more tolerant of human presence due to railroads, highways, and river traffic adjacent to or through the Refuge. Most filming will occur in, or be directed to, existing areas and facilities open to general public use. Disturbance is also generally short-term and temporarily displaces wildlife during the initial setup and periodic maintenance of equipment. Adequate adjacent habitat is usually available for wildlife. Coordination with Refuge staff during permit development will ensure avoidance of sensitive areas or species and take into account seasonal concerns such as nesting and migration. This use has the potential to increase awareness and appreciation of fish and wildlife, wildlands, and national wildlife refuges by showcasing each to a broad and large audience. When this use is associated with research, the outcome can benefit refuge resources directly.

Signature: _____
Refuge Manager: _____
(signature and date)

Concurrence: _____
Regional Chief: _____
(signature and date)

Mandatory 10- or 15 year Re-evaluations Date:

Compatibility Determination

Regional Office Review Documentation and Routing Slip

Compatibility Determination forms, and appropriate NEPA documentation, are completed by the Project Leader in accordance with policy and following suitable public review and comment. Project Leader will sign the compatibility determination.

Are CDs part of a CCP?	Yes	No X	
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Route to	Title	Responsibility	surname/date
1	Refuge Historic Preservation Officer:	Reviews for NEPA compliance, cultural resource protection issues, and completeness of documentation.	
2	Chief, Visitor Services and Outreach:	Reviews for consistency with public use policies, and consistency with station public use management plans. Alerts Supervisor if precedent setting.	
3	Regional Refuge Biologist:	Reviews for biological soundness and consistency with principles of fish and wildlife management, and consistency with station habitat and wildlife management plans.	
4	Refuge Supervisor:	Reviews for overall consistency with Refuge Purpose, Mission, Goals and Objectives, and for overall clarity of reasoning and sound professional judgment.	
5	Division of Conservation Planning	If draft CDs are part of a draft CCP, hold signed CDs; then forward them with the final CCP to the Regional Chief.	
6	Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System:	Reviews for overall compatibility with Refuge System Mission, Regional consistency, and adherence to Service Policies. Alerts Regional Director to sensitive or potentially controversial decisions.	Signs CD
Last	Regional Historic Preservation Officer:	Signed original is returned to field station. Copy is filed with RFO files.	Files copy of CD

CD Title	Video Streaming of Wildlife Activities - Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges Complex
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